

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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R 302342Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7520

AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ UNN

AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA UNN

AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO UNN

AMCONSUL MATAMOROS UNN

AMCONSUL MAZATLAN UNN

AMCONSUL MERIDA UNN

AMCONSUL MONTERREY UNN

AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO UNN

AMCONSUL TIJUANA UNN

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR UNN

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA UNN

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA UNN

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE UNN

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 769

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MX

SUBJECT: MONTHLY POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS - APRIL 1975.

BEGIN SUMMARY: APRIL IN MEXICO WAS A MONTH DOMINATED BY
PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS: A GOM OFFICIAL NAMED SEVEN POSSIBLE
SUCCESSORS; THE PRI PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED HIS PARTY WOULD
ADOPT A SIX YEAR PLAN, AFTER WHICH IT WOULD CHOOSE ITS
CANDIDATE; PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE CANDIDATES INCREASED;
AND TWO EPISODES, THE OUSTER OF THE GOVERNOR OF HIDALGO,
AND AN ATTACK ON THE GOVERNOR OF NUEVO LEON, ALSO RELATED
TO THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE. MEANWHILE THE MARCH 14 UNAM
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INCIDENT DIED DOWN AND THE
UNIVERSITY OF GUERRERO CONFLICT WAS QUIETLY RESOLVED.
AS THE GOM PREPARED FOR THE UN CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, IT
DISCOVERED AT LEAST A FEW MEXICAN WOMEN DON'T THINK OF
THE ECONOMIC CHARTER WHEN THEY CONSIDER THE STATUS OF WOMEN.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION

ALTHOUGH INTEREST IN THE PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION HAS BEEN
GROWING OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS, IN APRIL THE FLOOD
GATES SEEMED TO OPEN. ON APRIL 10, HYDRAULIC RESOURCES
SECRETARY ROVIROSA BROKE TRADITION BY NAMING SEVEN POSSIBLE
SUCCESSORS. ALTHOUGH SOME FOLLOWED THIS DEVELOPMENT WITH
CALLS FOR ACTIVE CAMPAIGNING, INCLUDING POLITICAL PLAT-
FORMS, ETC., IT NOW APPEARS NOTHING BASIC HAS CHANGED.
TABOO (BECAUSE OF THREAT TO PRI UNITY) PREVENTS OVERT
CAMPAIGNING AND RULING ELITE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE
TO MAKE SELECTION OUT OF PUBLIC VIEW. BY MONTHS END,
PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S CONCERN APPEARED TO BE SHUTTING OFF
THE PREMATURE INTEREST IN HIS SUCCESSOR AS HE CALLED UPON
ALL CITIZENS TO LEAVE THIS QUESTION UNTIL THE PROPER
TIME -- AFTER THE RULING PARTY (PRI) DRAWS UP A SIX YEAR
PLAN FOR THE NEXT GOVERNMENT.

IF OVERT CAMPAIGNING IS PROHIBITED, PRIVATE MANEUVERING
HAS FLOURISHED. IN EARLY APRIL THE INFLUENTIAL MEXICO CITY
DAILY EXCELSIOR PUBLISHED AN INTERVIEW CRITICAL OF NUEVO
LEON GOVERNOR PEDRO ZORRILLA, A MOYA PALENCIA PROTEGE.
EXCELSIOR THEN ATTACKED ZORRILLA WHEN IN HIS REBUTTAL
ZORRILLA REFUSED TO ADMIT HE WAS ALLIED WITH MOYA. CONGEN
MONTERREY REPORTS ZORRILLA DOES NOT HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE
OF MONTERREY INDUSTRIALISTS AND MAY BE VULNERABLE SPOT
IN MOYA'S PRESIDENTIAL BID.

MOYA LOOKED STRONGER THAN EVER, HOWEVER, WHEN ON APRIL
29 THE PERMANENT COMMISSION OF THE MEXICAN CONGRESS DEPOSED
THE GOVERNOR OF HIDALGO, WHO ATTACKED MOYA LAST SEPT-
OCTOBER AND THEN RENEWED ATTACKS IN APRIL. OUSTER WAS
AWESOME IN ITS ORCHESTRATION OF POWER AND WAS CLEAR SIGN OF
PRESIDENTIAL SUPPORT OF MOYA ON THIS ISSUE, AT LEAST.
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BUT SINCE INTEREST OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA IS TO KEEP
POLITICIANS GUESSING UNTIL OCTOBER, WHEN HE HAS SAID CANDIDATE
WILL BE ANNOUNCED, MOYA MAY NOT HAVE CLEAR SAILING YET.

2. STUDENTS

SIX WEEKS AFTER PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WAS STONED AT THE

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, THAT INCIDENT HAS LARGELY BEEN FORGOTTEN AND THE PRESIDENT IS AGAIN DIALOGUING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE - IN BAJA CALIFORNIA, MORELOS, GUADALAJARA, AND CHIAPAS. IN BAJA PRESIDENT DECLARED MEXICO WOULD FOLLOW ITS OWN COURSE OF A MIXED ECONOMY - SHUNNING BOTH SOCIALISM AND CAPITALISM. BUSINESSMEN FOUND THIS REASSURING.

IN GUERRERO, WHERE INTERVENTION OF STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INTO CAMPUS POLITICS PROVIDED ANOTHER POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE ISSUE, A SOLUTION WAS QUIETLY REACHED: AN INVESTIGATIVE BODY FOUND NO VIOLATION OF THE UNIVERSITY'S AUTONOMY, BUT THE RECTOR WHOM AUTHORITIES ATTEMPTED TO PREVENT FROM ASSUMING OFFICE WILL APPARENTLY DO SO. NEWS OF THIS EVENT SIMPLY DISAPPEARED FROM PAPERS.

3. TERRORISTS STRIKE AGAIN

AFTER A LULL OF NEARLY THREE MONTHS TWELVE 23 OF SEPTEMBER COMMUNIST LEAGUE MEMBERS ROBBED A MEXICO CITY BRANCH BANK APRIL 25. GUN BATTLE WHICH ENSUED LEFT TWELVE DEAD INCLUDING ONE TERRORIST. 23 OF SEPTEMBER GROUP ADVOCATES MASS VIOLENCE AS PRELUDE TO ESTABLISHMENT OF MARXIST STATE. ITS PATTERN OF ROBBERIES OVER LAST SIX MONTHS SUGGESTS IT MAY BE ACQUIRING ARSENALS WHICH WOULD MAKE SUCH VIOLENCE THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE.

4. WOMEN MEET IN GUANAJUATO

IN FEBRUARY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA INAUGURATED WOMEN'S YEAR IN MEXICO WITH THEME WHICH HAS BECOME GOVERNMENT SPONSORED LINE: MOST EXPLOITED WOMEN ARE IN THIRD WORLD, SUFFERING FROM UNJUST INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER FOR WHICH ECHEVERRIA CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES IS SOLUTION. ON APRIL 5-6 A RECENTLY FORMED WOMEN'S CONFIDENTIAL

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GROUP MET IN GUANAJUATO TO DISCUSS WOMEN'S ISSUES. GOM QUIETLY BUT SUBSTANTIALLY SUPPORTED GROUP BUT DISENCHANTMENT BECAME DISCERNIBLE (TO ATTENDING EMBOFF) WHEN WOMEN PREFERRED TO "DEMAND" SOLUTIONS TO STATUS OF WOMEN ISSUES INSTEAD OF PRAISING CHARTER. JOVA

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